

Poughkeepsie, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today visited the New York State Department of Labor and Dutchess One-Stop employment center to outline the benefits for Hudson Valley families that will result from the extension of unemployment insurance that Congress approved this week after seven weeks of delay in the Senate. Hinchey, who voted for the extension of benefits, was joined by the director of the Dutchess One Stop, Don Lucarellow and Hudson Valley Regional Rep for the New York State Commission on Labor, Thom Kleiner.

"After seven weeks of delay in the United States Senate, 173,000 New Yorkers who had lost their unemployment benefits can breathe a sigh of relief," said Hinchey. "For every dollar spent, these benefits generate \$1.61 in economic activity, boosting the American economy while providing a lifeline for unemployed men and women throughout the country. They allow New Yorkers who have lost their income to pay their rent or mortgage, put food on the table and make ends meet as they look for new work. That's why I'm pleased that the Senate has finally followed the House and passed an extension of the benefits."

Hinchey voted several times to extend unemployment benefits, but until earlier this week the Senate had failed to act. In the fall of 2009, a handful of senators delayed action on a bill that Hinchey supported to extend benefits for 13 weeks. In February, Hinchey voted to pass emergency legislation to extend unemployment insurance for 30 days. That bill also died in the Senate. In March, one senator blocked passage of a crucial package that would have extended the benefits. And in June, Hinchey voted to extend the benefits for six months, but on four separate occasions, a handful of senators blocked the legislation.

While Hinchey said he was pleased that unemployment benefits will now be extended, he was disappointed that the Senate stripped out other provisions that would assist struggling state governments with increased Medicaid needs and allow laid-off workers to continue purchasing health insurance through federal COBRA benefits.

"These types of investments spur economic activity in the same way that unemployment benefits do and would have provided state governments with the support they need to make it through a tough budget year," said Hinchey. "We need to do more to improve the economic situation in the Hudson Valley. That's why I've worked to deliver federal investments to create jobs improving our infrastructure, tax credits to help small businesses bring on new workers and additional measures that would spur the economic growth that we need. Even though we've seen a lot of positive results so far, a lot more remains to be done."

Hinchey strongly supported and voted to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which has created and saved 3.5 million jobs nationwide and provided tax cuts for 98 percent of American workers. The City of Poughkeepsie received \$38 million in ARRA funding, including \$3.1 million to create jobs through energy conserving weatherization assistance, \$1.9 million for the cost-saving hybrid buses and \$1.3 million for construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing. In order to keep the momentum of the Recovery Act going, Hinchey said the U.S. needs a second stimulus.

Hinchey also highlighted the need to support the manufacturing sector, which lost nearly 2.5 million jobs as a result of the recession. On Wednesday, Hinchey voted for the Manufacturing Enhancement Act to increase the global competitiveness of our manufacturing base, support tens of thousands of U.S. jobs and expand gross domestic product (GDP) by billions of dollars.

Hinchey has also worked to help small businesses create jobs. Recently he voted to pass the Small Business Lending Fund Act to boost lending to small businesses with limited access to capital in the wake of the financial crisis. In March, President Obama signed into law the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, which Hinchey also supported, to provide tax incentives for hiring new employees.

The Dutchess One-Stop is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive employment resource. The center helps connect employers with job seekers and provides access to preparation, training, employment and employment advancement resources.